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Economic and Social Council

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Forum on financing for development follow-up
New York, 22-25 May 2017

Information note prepared by the President of the Economic and Social Council on arrangements for the 2017 Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up

I. Introduction

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 69/313 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa Action Agenda), established an annual Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up with universal, intergovernmental participation. It also decided that the forum's modalities of participation would be those utilized at the international conferences on financing for development. The forum would consist of up to five days, one of which would be the special high-level meeting with the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), as well as additional institutional and other stakeholders depending on the priorities and scope of the meeting; up to four days would be dedicated to discussing the follow-up and review of the financing for development outcomes and the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

2. In its resolution 70/192, the General Assembly further defined the modalities of the forum and encouraged the President of the Economic and Social Council, in collaboration with the Secretary-General, to produce an information note regarding arrangements for the meeting of the forum in 2016. Furthermore, in its resolution 71/217, the General Assembly invited the President of the Economic and Social Council to begin early planning of the 2017 Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up and to consider using in 2017 the modalities that applied to the 2016 forum. The present note was prepared in fulfilment of those mandates.

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II. Organizational arrangements

A. Dates and venue

3. In accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 2017/206, the 2017 Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up will be held from Monday, 22 May, to Thursday, 25 May 2017. All meetings of the forum will be held in the Trusteeship Council Chamber at United Nations Headquarters in New York.

B. Rules of procedure

4. As agreed at the 2016 forum on financing for development follow-up, the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council and the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolutions 69/313, 70/192 and 71/217, as well as any decisions to be adopted by the Council, will be applied to the meetings of the forum. In case of any contradiction between the rules of procedure and the relevant provisions of the above-mentioned resolutions and decisions, the latter will take precedence.

C. Schedule of meetings and organization of work

5. The meetings of the forum will be chaired by the President of the Economic and Social Council. It is proposed that, in the absence of the President, the Vice-Presidents of the Council will chair the meetings of the forum on behalf of the President.

6. The forum will consist of a ministerial segment, which will include a formal opening, a general debate, an interactive dialogue with major institutional stakeholders and three ministerial round tables; and an expert segment, which will include four thematic round tables, two expert discussions, a panel discussion on the report of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development, a discussion on the progress made in forums mandated under the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and key voluntary initiatives launched at the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, a stakeholder dialogue and a formal closing.

7. The updated provisional programme of the forum is available from www.un.org/esa/ffd/ffdforum/2017-ffd-forum/programme/index.html.

D. Opening of the forum

8. The forum, including the special high-level meeting with the Bretton Woods institutions, WTO and UNCTAD, will begin at 10 a.m. on Monday, 22 May.

9. At the opening of the forum, statements will be delivered by the President of the Economic and Social Council and the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The President of the World Bank Group, the Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the Director General of WTO will then be invited to deliver statements.

10. Following the opening remarks, statements will be made by intergovernmental representatives, including the Chair of the IMF/World Bank Development Committee, the Chair of the International Monetary and Financial Committee of

IMF, the Chair of the General Council of WTO and the President of the Trade and Development Board of UNCTAD.

11. Subsequently, keynote presentations will be delivered by senior officials of relevant United Nations system organizations, including a presentation on the report of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development.

E. General debate

12. The general debate will be held on Monday, 22 May, from noon to 1 p.m., and on Tuesday, 23 May, from 4.30 to 8 p.m. During the general debate, ministers and high-level officials attending the forum will be able to make formal statements, on the understanding that the principle of precedence will be applied, in accordance with the past practice of the international conferences on financing for development. Statements made on behalf of groups will be limited to five minutes and statements by individual delegations will be limited to three minutes, although this will not preclude the distribution of more extensive texts. Time limits will be strictly observed.

13. The list of speakers for the general debate is open. Requests for inscription on the list of speakers should be sent, in writing, with the full name and title of the speaker, to the Secretary of the Council, Ms. Emer Herity (c/o Ms. Catalina de Leon (e-mail leonc@un.org; fax 1 (212) 963-5935)). The list of speakers will close at 5 p.m. on Friday, 19 May 2017.

F. Interactive dialogue with major institutional stakeholders

14. An interactive dialogue with major institutional stakeholders will be held on Monday, 22 May, from 3 to 6 p.m., with a focus on policy coherence, inequalities and inclusive growth.

G. Ministerial round tables

15. Three ministerial round tables on steps taken towards the implementation of commitments contained in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and other financing for development outcomes will be held on 23 May. The ministerial round tables will be guided by paragraph 131 of the annex to General Assembly resolution 69/313 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, which states that the financing for development follow-up process should promote the sharing of lessons learned from experiences at the national and regional levels. Each round table will bring together a balanced mix of ministers from developed and developing countries, one high-level representative from an international financial institution or an intergovernmental organization, and high-level representatives from civil society and the private sector. It is envisaged that the intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations will be presented and adopted immediately after the conclusion of the ministerial round tables.

H. Thematic round tables and panel discussions

Panel discussion on the 2017 report of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development

16. The panel discussion will be held from 10 to 11.30 a.m. on Wednesday, 24 May. The findings of the 2017 report of the Inter-Agency Task Force on

Financing for Development will be presented and discussed, with a particular focus on the introductory chapter, the global context and the thematic chapter.

Thematic round tables

17. The forum will include four thematic round tables, held on Wednesday, 24 May, and Thursday, 25 May, on the following topics:

(a) Round table A: "Domestic and international public resources" (action areas A and C);

(b) Round table B: "Domestic and international private business and finance" (action area B);

(c) Round table C: "Debt and systemic issues" (action areas E and F);

(d) Round table D: "Trade, science, technology, innovation and capacity-building" (action areas D and G).

18. Discussions at the round tables will be facilitated by a moderator nominated by the President of the Council. Each round table will be open to the representatives of all participating States, up to 20 representatives of accredited intergovernmental organizations, up to 10 representatives of relevant entities of the United Nations system, 3 representatives of accredited civil society organizations, and 3 representatives of accredited business sector entities. Each representative of a participating State may be accompanied by one adviser.

19. To encourage an interactive discussion, there will be no pre-determined list of speakers for the round tables. Representatives of relevant entities of the United Nations system wishing to participate in the round tables are invited to indicate to the Financing for Development Office (Ms. Isabel Tañedo, e-mail tanedo@un.org; tel: 1 (212) 963-0500) in which of the round tables they intend to participate. Participation by civil society organizations in the round tables will be coordinated by the Civil Society Organizations Financing for Development Group (www.un.org/esa/ffd/ffdforum/stakeholder-engagement/cso-registration/index.html) and participation by the business sector will be coordinated by the Business Sector Steering Committee (www.un.org/esa/ffd/ffdforum/stakeholder-engagement/business-sector-registration/index.html).

20. Each round table will include a panel discussion, comprising four panellists. The panel discussion will be followed by an interactive debate. In order to allow for maximum participation, interventions should not exceed five minutes for State representatives speaking on behalf of groups of countries and three minutes for representatives of individual States and all other stakeholders. All participants will be invited to speak from their seats and are encouraged to avoid reading from written statements, although this will not preclude the publication of full texts.

Expert discussions

21. On Thursday, 24 May, there will also be two expert discussions on the following topics:

(a) Expert discussion 1: "Promoting international cooperation to combat illicit financial flows in order to foster sustainable development";

(b) Expert discussion 2: "The specific challenges to finance sustainable development for countries in special situations".

22. In the discussions, experts from Governments, international organizations and other stakeholders will address specific issues mandated by the relevant General Assembly resolutions for discussion at the forum. The emphasis will be on the issues that are not fully covered in the thematic round tables. Each expert discussion

will be conducted in the form of a panel discussion, with up to four panel members and a moderator.

Stakeholder dialogue

23. An interactive dialogue with civil society, the business sector and other non-institutional stakeholders will be held from 3 to 4.30 p.m. on Thursday, 25 May. In addition to stakeholder participation throughout the forum, the interactive dialogue will provide an opportunity, within the forum's formal programme, for non-institutional stakeholders, such as civil society, the business sector and other entities, to interact directly with Member States to discuss progress made on commitments contained in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and to highlight the ways in which non-institutional stakeholders are supporting the implementation of the Agenda.

Presentation on forums mandated under the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and key voluntary initiatives

24. A series of presentations will be made on the progress achieved in forums mandated under the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and key voluntary initiatives launched at the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, including the outcomes of the 2017 Global Infrastructure Forum, the second multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2016 Development Cooperation Forum, as well as other initiatives and partnerships to be selected in consultation with the President of the Council.

I. Adoption of intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations

25. It is envisaged that the intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations will be presented by the co-facilitators appointed by the President and adopted immediately after the conclusion of the ministerial round tables in the afternoon on 23 May.

J. Closing of the forum

26. At the closing of the forum, in the afternoon on 25 May, a procedural report will be presented for adoption. The forum will be formally closed by the President of the Council.

III. Seating arrangements

27. Owing to space limitations in the Trusteeship Council Chamber, at the opening of the forum and at subsequent meetings, the delegation of each State participating in the forum and that of the European Union will be assigned two seats: one at the table and one behind. Seating will also be specifically assigned for other participants. At the interactive dialogue with major institutional stakeholders, to be held on Monday, 22 May, from 3 to 6 p.m., the executive directors of the institutions will be seated among the State representatives.

IV. Participants

28. The meetings of the forum will be open to participation by all States Members of the United Nations or States members of specialized agencies and the European Union; intergovernmental organizations having received a standing invitation to participate as observers in the sessions and work of the General Assembly; other intergovernmental organizations in accordance with rule 74 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council; intergovernmental organizations that were accredited to the Monterrey, Doha or Addis Ababa conferences on financing for development; relevant entities of the United Nations system; and accredited civil society organizations and business sector entities.

Civil society and the business sector

29. Representatives of civil society and business sector entities are invited to participate in the forum in accordance with the established practice of the international conferences on financing for development, namely: (a) all non-governmental organizations that are in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council; and (b) all non-governmental organizations and business sector entities that were accredited to the Monterrey, Doha or Addis Ababa conferences on financing for development.

V. Registration

30. Registration for States and intergovernmental organizations will be open with the Protocol and Liaison Service in New York, following an announcement in the *Journal of the United Nations*.

31. In order to be included in the list of participants, delegations are kindly requested to send the names of their representatives and alternates attending the forum to the Secretary of the Council, Ms. Emer Herity (c/o Mr. Jose Rene Tanoy (e-mail tanoy@un.org; Room CB-0125; fax 1 (212) 963-5935)). Please note that only scanned copies of notes verbales will be accepted by e-mail.

32. Registration for relevant organizations of the United Nations system, civil society organizations and the business sector entities closed on Friday, 12 May. Civil society organizations were able to register at www.un.org/esa/ffd/ffdforum/stakeholder-engagement/cso-registration/index.html. Registration for the business sector could be found at www.un.org/esa/ffd/ffdforum/stakeholder-engagement/business-sector-registration/index.html.

VI. Documentation

A. Pre-session documentation

33. The pre-session documentation of the forum includes:

(a) Provisional agenda (E/FFDF/2017/1);

(b) Information note prepared by the President of the Economic and Social Council on arrangements for the 2017 Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up (E/FFDF/2017/INF/1);

(c) Note by the Secretary-General on financing for development: progress and prospects (E/FFDF/2017/2);

(d) 2017 report of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development, entitled "Financing for development: progress and prospects."

B. In-session documentation

34. In-session documentation will include:

(a) Draft report of the Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up for 2017 (E/FFDF/2017/L.1);

(b) Draft agreed conclusions and recommendations of the Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up (E/FFDF/2017/L.2).

C. Post-session documentation

35. Post-session documentation will include:

(a) Final procedural report of the 2017 Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up, containing the agreed conclusions and recommendations (E/FFDF/2017/3);

(b) Summary by the President of the Economic and Social Council of the 2017 forum on financing for development follow-up;

(c) Publication entitled "Implementing the Addis Ababa Action Agenda: the 2017 Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up".[1]

D. Inputs from all relevant stakeholders

36. Background information on the forum, including inputs received from all relevant stakeholders, will be posted and updated, on a regular basis, on the website of the forum (www.un.org/esa/ffd/ffdforum/2017-ffd-forum/index.html).

VII. Media arrangements

Live coverage

37. The Department of Public Information will provide live coverage of the forum. Live and on-demand webcasts of the meetings of the forum and press conferences, in English and the original language of the speaker, will be available from the United Nations Web TV website (http://webtv.un.org). Press releases, official documents, statements and other information material will be made available on the website of the forum. The forum will also be covered live on Twitter using the hashtag #FFDForum. Participants are encouraged to share content on their own social media platforms using that hashtag.

Media facilities

38. A press kit containing background information relevant to the forum will be available from the Department of Public Information in all official languages. It will be posted on the forum website.

[1] Forthcoming; it will be available on the website of the forum at www.un.org/esa/ffd/ffdforum/.

VIII. Side events

39. A series of side events, organized by Member States and other stakeholders, will complement the official programme of the forum. Registration of side events closed on 21 April 2017. The programme of side events, as well as guidelines on the organization of side events, is available on the website of the forum.

Annex

Tentative programme of the Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up

United Nations Headquarters, 22-25 May 2017

Monday, 22 May

10 a.m.-noon	Opening of the forum
	Adoption of the provisional agenda and other organizational matters
	Statement by the President of the Economic and Social Council
	Statements by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the President of the World Bank, the Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund and the Director General of the World Trade Organization
	Statements by the Chair of the IMF/World Bank Development Committee, the Chair of the International Monetary and Financial Committee of the International Monetary Fund, the Chair of the General Council of the World Trade Organization and the President of the Trade and Development Board of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
	Keynote presentations by senior officials of relevant United Nations system organizations
Noon-1 p.m.	General debate: statements by ministers
3-6 p.m.	Interactive dialogue with major institutional stakeholders on "Fostering policy coherence in the implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda"
Tuesday, 23 May	
10-11.30 a.m.	Ministerial round table 1
11.30 a.m.-1 p.m.	Ministerial round table 2
3-4.30 p.m.	Ministerial round table 3
4.30-8 p.m.	Presentation and adoption of the intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations
	General debate: statements by ministers and high-level officials
Wednesday, 24 May	
10-11.30 a.m.	Panel discussion on the 2017 report of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development
11.30 a.m.-1 p.m.	Round table A: "Domestic and international public resources" (action areas A and C)
3-4.30 p.m.	Round table B: "Domestic and international private business and finance" (action area B)
4.30-6 p.m.	Round table C: "Debt and systemic issues" (action areas E and F)

Thursday, 25 May	
9.30-11 a.m.	Round table D: "Trade, science, technology, innovation and capacity-building" (action areas D and G)
11 a.m.-noon	Expert discussion 1: "Promoting international cooperation to combat illicit financial flows in order to foster sustainable development"
Noon-1 p.m.	Expert discussion 2: "The specific challenges to finance sustainable development for countries in special situations"
3-4.30 p.m.	Stakeholder dialogue: interactive dialogue with civil society, the business sector and other non-institutional stakeholders
4.30-5.45 p.m.	Outcomes of the forums mandated under the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and updates on key voluntary initiatives launched at the Third International Conference on Financing for Development
5.45-6 p.m.	Closing of the forum
	Adoption of the procedural report of the forum
	Closing statement by the President of the Economic and Social Council